

Health News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "Look up a health care provider license" in the "How Do I?" section of the Department of Health website (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Cowlitz County

In March 2015 the Agency Affiliated Counselor Program charged agency affiliated counselor **Raymond James Sellek III** (CG60179291) with unprofessional conduct. While working at a community mental health agency, Sellek allegedly advised a client to use medical marijuana, gave the client two capsules of marijuana oil he'd prepared from plants he grew, and gave the client the names and telephone numbers of marijuana providers.

Island County

In March 2015 the Mental Health Counselor Program agreed to reinstate the licensed mental health counselor credential of **Holly Vashti George**, also known as Holly Vashti Jones (LH60150698), and placed her on probation for five years. Her license was suspended in 2012 when she committed multiple boundary violations with a patient.

King County

In March 2015 the Physical Therapy Board conditionally granted a physical therapist credential to **Ryan Richard Resnik** (PT60507172). He must undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2014 Resnik was convicted of driving while intoxicated.

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In March 2015 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Angela Ann Huffman** (RN60289558) with unprofessional conduct. In 2014 she was convicted on federal charges of tampering with consumer products and acquiring controlled substances by misrepresentation. Charges say Huffman forged prescriptions for controlled substances, and she replaced narcotic medication with saline, thus creating a risk of patient harm.

In March 2015 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Kelly D. Schwartz** (RN00148083) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly diverted controlled substances from her workplace and didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

In March 2015 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Julita Wanda Gasior** (LP00043099) with unprofessional conduct. While she was working at a skilled nursing facility, Gasior allegedly didn't follow a physician's orders about life-sustaining treatment for a patient.

In March 2015 the Psychology Board ended probation for psychologist **Nathan C. Brown** (PY00001841).

In March 2015 the Psychology Board entered an agreement with psychologist **John F. Robinson** (PY00000916) that permanently restricts him from any clinical practice or treatment of patients. He must pay a \$1,000 fine. Robinson dated, had a sexual relationship, moved in with, and became engaged to a former patient. He also developed a personal friendship with and kissed another former patient. Robinson didn't keep patient records for the required amount of time or protect them from unauthorized access.

Pierce County

In March 2015 the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program charged paramedic **Gronn Morgan** (ES00107899) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly allowed a patient complaining of chest pain to smoke a cigarette, contrary to established protocols. Charges say Morgan incorrectly diagnosed and/or gave medication to four other patients.

In March 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Haley-Ann Whitson, Daniel Kraft,** and **Aquatic Antibiotics** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Charges say Whitson and Kraft don't have credentials to practice as pharmacists, a pharmacy, wholesalers or manufacturers. Whitson allegedly owns a business called Aquatic Antibiotics. Kraft allegedly owns the property where the business is located, and is associated with the business and with Whitson. They also allegedly bought antibiotics from a manufacturer and repackaged and sold them without prescriptions as antibiotics for fish.

In March 2015 the Dental Commission agreed to reinstate the dental assistant credential of **Hilary Elyse Palmer** (D160247364), which was suspended in 2014 when she didn't abide by a previous agreement.

In March 2015 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program denied a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Jessica Lynn Hoppe** (CO60474974). In 2012 Hoppe was

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convicted of two counts of identity theft, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. In 2013 she was convicted of unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to delivermethamphetamine.

In March 2015 the Medical Commission charged physician **Jose A. Garcia Jr.** (MD00011694) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly violated rules about nonsurgical medical cosmetic procedures and office-based surgery. Garcia allegedly didn't abide by a 2012 order by allowing workers to perform tasks for which they weren't licensed.

Snohomish County

In March 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Marie-Josee Harimenshi** (NC10094129) with unprofessional conduct. In 2015 the Nursing Commission placed Harimenshi's licensed practical nurse credential on probation.

In March 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Patricia Humble** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Humble allegedly practiced as a nursing assistant for nearly three years after her license expired.

In March 2015 the secretary of health reinstated the chemical dependency professional and registered counselor credentials of **Clinton Russell Dreger** (CP00000808, RC00027760). His licenses were revoked in 2006 in connection with standard of care violations. Dreger's registered counselor credential was changed from revoked to an expired status; that credential was abolished in 2010.

In March 2015 the secretary of health conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Anna Marie Isquirisigza** (CO60535774), placed her on probation, ordered her to complete continuing education in professional law and ethics, and directed her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2004 Isquirisigza was convicted of driving while intoxicated. In 2007 she was convicted of reckless endangerment and second-degree attempted theft. In 2010 she was convicted of theft, and in 2011 she was convicted of custodial interference. In 2014 she was convicted of driving while intoxicated.

Spokane County

In March 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Hannah M. Hirt** (NC60141314) with unprofessional conduct. While Hirt was working at an assisted living facility, she allegedly left a patient alone in the shower, which was contrary to her care plan. Charges say the patient fell, injured her head, and died three days later.

Thurston County

In March 2015 the Dental Commission entered an agreement with dentist **Robert C. Harris** (DE00006413) that restricts him from placing or replacing implants. Harris must complete continuing education on implants and risk management. His practice will be monitored. Harris

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provided substandard care for multiple implant patients. He also kept inadequate records, allowed a dental assistant to practice outside the scope of her license, and didn't report a patient's hospitalization.

In March 2015 the Medical Commission charged physician **Lowell R. Dightman** (MD00020247) with unprofessional conduct. Dightman allegedly diagnosed and treated a patient's foot injury incorrectly.

Walla Walla County

In March 2015 the secretary of health ended probation for physician **Daniel W. Moullet** (MD00034152).

Whatcom County

In March 2015 the Physical Therapy Board conditionally granted a physical therapist assistant credential to **Benjamin J. Stewart** (P160524745) and ordered him to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2002 Stewart was convicted of unlawful possession of a controlled substance and first-degree trafficking in stolen property. In 2004 he was convicted of third-degree malicious mischief. In 2007 he was convicted of third-degree reckless driving. In 2009 he entered a deferred prosecution agreement on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Yakima County

In March 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Jon Silverstein** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Charges say Silverstein owns a business where an unlicensed employee provided massages to clients.

In March 2015 the Medical Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Sharon Elizabeth Metz** (CM60383589) with unprofessional conduct. Metz allegedly submitted fraudulent prescriptions for controlled substances.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The <u>Department of Health website</u> (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, <u>find us on Facebook</u> and <u>follow us on Twitter</u>.